

Message Text

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ORIGIN NASA-04

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DRAFTED BY NASA/I:MORRISON:GMS SCI/SAM

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EUR/NE-MR. RCARROLL/NME

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R 072142Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

UNCLAS STATE 025865

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MALTA: ERTS DATA RECEIVING STATION

REF: EMBASSY'S 0072

1. POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING ERTS DATA RECEIVING STATION IN MALTA DEPENDS GREATLY ON DEGREE OF INTEREST IN MALTA AND FAO AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING FOR SUCH A PROJECT (FUNDING WOULD HAVE TO BE ARRANGED BY MALTA AND/OR FAO).

2. DR. HOWARD'S MEETING WITH NASA DID TAKE PLACE AS REPORTED BY G.W. FORD, THE FAO ADVISER. NASA'S REACTION AT THIS STAGE IS THAT THIS IS AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (APPROXIMATELY 14 COUNTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN ERTS GROUND STATIONS) WHICH NASA CANNOT YET CONSIDER SERIOUS IN THAT IT HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY COMMUNICATION FROM THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT. ALSO, NASA DOUBTS IF GOM AWARE THAT:

(1) STATION WOULD COST ON THE ORDER OF THREE MILLION DOLLARS CAPITAL OUTLAY WITH SIZEABLE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET;(2) ERTS IS AN EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NO COMMITMENT TO CONDUCT AN OPERATIONAL PROGRAM AFTER THE SECOND SATELLITE, ERTS-B, IS LAUNCHED IN ABOUT EARLY 1975 AND;(3) ITALY (TELESPAZIO) IS PROCEEDING WITH AN ERTS GROUND STATION THAT WILL COVER AN AREA VERY SIMILAR

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TO THAT OF A MALTESE STATION.

3. FROM NASA'S STANDPOINT, ACTION IS ENTIRELY ON FAO AND MALTA
TO INDICATE WHETHER THEY DESIRE TO FOLLOW-UP INITIAL CONTACT.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATURAL RESOURCES, SURVEILLANCE SATELLITES, ERTS
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Draft Date: 07 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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30 JUN 2005

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